

## LETTER FROM MRS. WILKIE.

CANADIAN MISSION, INDORE,  
May 2nd, 1895.

**D**EAR CHILDREN—What a nice bundle of patches! I would like, through the RECORD, to thank the person who sent them; also the little girl who wrote saying that she wished to send something through the Post. We are glad to know of your interest. Whatever you may wish to give for the work here may be sent to Mrs. Jeffrey, 142 Bloor Street West, Toronto. Mention for what part of the work and to whom you wish the things to be sent, and Mrs. Jeffrey will put them into the Mission box and they will reach us safely.

I forgot when last I wrote, to say that emery bags, scissors, and pocket knives, we find useful.

In connection with our Sewing Class in the Christian Mohulla or ward, in the city, we would like to give a small emery bag to each for cleanliness, needles rust very quickly in the damp season of the year. Lately we have been giving the women work to do in their homes and find that few of them own a pair of scissors, so when a mistake is made in the work, instead of opening it out with scissors they tear it apart. A pair of scissors as a reward at the end of the year would make a very useful present and help these poor people to be more careful in their work. Like all poor down-trodden people they are improvident and every little thing that we do for them helps them to a better way of living.

I wish to tell you about two of our girls. One of them is a bright merry laughing little girl called Malima. The people in the Mohulla say that she has got "Shitan" Satan in her. At first she did not like to sit and sew and learn her verses and when she saw us coming she would hide. Now she runs to meet us and always wants to do whatever she can to help us. We spoke kindly to her one day about using a comb with the result that she now looks very respectable. She does her sewing pretty well although we have sometimes to undo it, and sometimes,

we find her thimble on her thumb or on any of the fingers but the right one. The most encouraging part is that she is taking an interest in learning, especially in the Bible Lessons.

The other girl 'Tulsi' is quite opposite in temperament; although married, she is only a girl. From the first she has taken an interest in all her work. She is a good natured quiet and thoughtful girl, who has an influence for good over the others. She looks so distressed when any of them are specially noisy, and watches our faces to see what effect it is having on us. She has always lived with her old grandmother, of whom she has taken care, and by her efforts, till lately, she has provided a scanty living for both. Now her husband's wages go into the common fund.

I wish that you could see for yourselves the homes and surroundings of these poor people. Having been low caste people they are shovd to the poor parts of the city. There is a bridge across the river at some distance from their ward where there are a number of temples and houses of Brahmins, but none near them. To get to their houses they have constructed a rude bridge consisting of logs supported by old barrels, wheels of carts, &c. but during the rains or when the river for any reason is full, this bridge is often swept away and they must wade across.

They have a system of water works in the city; a tap for the ordinary people is on one side of the road and a corresponding tap for these poor people in some out of the way place. This is however across the river from these people and so the women must carry the water in earthen pots on their heads a distance of more than a quarter of a mile, including the passage of the river, in the rains. This is difficult and often they are forced to use the sewage laden, dirty, water.

In the ward itself they have no roads, but lanes that zig zag among their houses. Some of these lanes are cleaner than others but considering that they have no drains, that their houses are closely crowded together and all refuse has to be carried away by them a